

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY...

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

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We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening...

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The new plow trust is called "The American Plow Company," and is capitalized at \$100,000,000. Twenty-three of the country's greatest plow manufacturing companies comprise it.

The News and Observer, with commendable enterprise, has secured reports from 200 correspondents representing all sections of the North Carolina cotton belt...

The New York Evening Post has just celebrated the centennial of its founding. We regard the Post as one of the best of American dailies, and we rejoice in its prosperity.

In our editorial of last week on the advantages of Prof. Burkett's short course in dairying, we quoted a note from the Raleigh Post urging the better development of the dairy interests about Raleigh.

In a recent editorial on the State Fair and its Midway, we quoted the Biblical Recorder's editorial containing, incidentally, a rather severe criticism of Secretary Pogue.

DO FARMERS NEED EDUCATION?

We do not think that we made a mistake in giving Prof. Soule's article first place on page 1. The figures he gives ought to be carefully studied, for they shed much light on the question: "Is it the soil or the treatment of the soil that is responsible for the discouraging features of Southern agriculture?"

And after reading what Prof. Soule has to say upon this subject, turn to the next column, and read the report of the tests at the Kansas and Minnesota Experiment Stations, showing what is accomplished by agricultural education in the one matter of feeding dairy cattle.

THE SHIP SUBSIDY SCHEME.

A recent press dispatch says: "Senator Frye talked to the President to day about the ship subsidy bill. Mr. Frye has a new bill, but says he will not give it out until it is introduced at the coming session."

The Smithfield Herald has established a "Farm Department" which is quite ably conducted by Mr. J. M. Beatty, one of the proprietors of the paper.

A NEW SOUTHERN MAGAZINE.

The first number of a magazine to be known as "The South Atlantic Quarterly," "designed to develop the literature of the section indicated in the title," will be issued from Durham, N. C., about January 20th.

AN ECHO OF THE LIMBLESS COTTON SENSATION.

In our reading last week we came across a news item regarding an old time acquaintance, "the African Limbless Cotton." The paragraph is from the Charlotte News, and will doubtless remind our readers of the time when this great fake claimed the support of the Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta Journal, and a number of North Carolina papers.

Worthy Master Aaron Jones and Secretary John Trimble were re-elected to their respective positions by the National Grange in session last week.

A THANKSGIVING THOUGHT.

Thanksgiving Day will have come and gone before the next issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER appears. We wish that the day were more generally observed throughout the South.

We are reminded just here that this year's Thanksgiving proclamation, issued by President Roosevelt, contains at least one paragraph that should not be forgotten with the passing of the occasion that called it forth.

"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected of us; and that true homage come from the heart as well as from the lips and shows itself in deeds. We can best prove our thankfulness to the Almighty by the way in which on this earth and at this time each of us does his duty to his fellow men."

That is a worthy sentiment, and it would be well if each Thanksgiving worshipper this year could be brought to realize that it does really point out the truest expression of the Thanksgiving spirit.

Ruskin, in his essay on "Work," in "The Crown of Wild Olive," expresses the thought with so much more force and beauty than it is in our power to do, that we make no apology for reproducing one paragraph. Says Mr. Ruskin:

"Do justice and judgment—that's your Bible order; that's the service of God—not praising or palm-singing. You are told, indeed, to sing psalms when you are merry, and to pray when you need anything; and, by the perverseness of the Evil Spirit, we get to think that praying and palm-singing are 'service.' If a child finds itself in want of any thing it runs and asks its father for it—does it call that doing its father a service? If it begs for a toy or a piece of cake—does it call that serving its father? That, with God, is prayer, and He likes to hear it: He likes you to ask Him for cake when you want it; but He doesn't call that 'serving Him.' Begging is not serving: God likes mere beggars as little as you do—He likes honest servants, not beggars. So when a child loves its father very much, and is very happy, it may sing little songs about him; but it doesn't call that serving its father; neither is singing songs about God, serving God."

We believe that Mr. Ruskin's view will prove an entirely new one to many readers, and yet it is but the expression in part and in another form of the very foundation principle of Christ's teachings. It is not our purpose to preach a sermon, but we think that on this first Thanksgiving Day of the new century each of us should try to remember that, he can "best prove his thankfulness to the Almighty by doing his duty to his fellow-men."

But this is not a new doctrine, nor better stated than in the language of the Great Master who taught that "not every one that saith, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven," but that if we do a service to the least of His creatures we shall be rewarded as if the service had been rendered to the Master himself.

In other words, the Giver of all good needs no cheering word from our lips nor friendly deed from our hands, and that way of expressing our gratitude is not open to us; but He does teach with unmistakable plainness that any of His creatures whom we can help is for us His representative, His substitute, and that He will finally make plain to all His doctrine—"As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Because we wish to encourage the reading of the best literature, it is a pleasure to recommend a high class periodical such as The Youth's Companion, of Boston, Mass. It is bright, clean, helpful, hopeful. In the seventy-five years of its existence it has brightened many million homes, and exerted some influence for good on several million lives.

IN THIS NUMBER—SOME RANDOM COMMENT.

FARM ARTICLES.

Prof. Doty's plan for decreasing the number of insect pests is a wise one, and the subject timely. When other work is not pressing, a few hours may be profitably spent in burning the decayed limbs of the orchard trees and all the leaves and other trash about them.

Prof. Burkett's discussion of "The Principles of Stock Breeding" is concluded in this number. Next week we shall publish the first of a new and, in our opinion, better series of articles from him on "The Live Stock Industry in the South."

Rev. Mr. Moore furnishes us some good suggestions as to the distinction between true and false farm economy. And it is something of a coincidence that we have just received an article on that identical subject by Mr. E. E. Miller, of Tennessee, which will appear next week.

Harry Farmer makes a suggestion that should have the attention of our college managers. And, by the way, Harry will talk next week of the advantages of farm life compared with factory life.

PAGES 4 AND 5.

We conclude this week our series of Browning's poems. We especially commend the first and last of the "Gems" quoted.

Readers will note with regret that this week's is the last installment of Dr. Alexander's reminiscent articles. This chapter is a good one, and we are sorry for the man whose mouth does not water as he reads that second section beginning, "It is a pleasure," etc. We hope to have other articles from the Doctor from time to time.

We expect that some of our lady readers will say hard things about us because a biographical sketch has usurped the space usually occupied by "Our Social Chat." In extenuation of the offense, however, and to shift the burden from our own shoulders to those of the Chat readers themselves, we wish to explain that when we prepared the matter for page 5 enough letters had not arrived to justify Aunt Jennie in writing. But the Chat will return to its own next week. And while referring to our "preparing the matter for page 5," we perhaps should explain again that pages 1, 4, 5 and 8 are printed several days before the other pages that contain editorials, news matter, etc.

In all seriousness, however, Macon's life ought to be much more generally studied, and if our essay is unworthy the fault lies in the author and not in the subject. Few North Carolinians have ever been so highly honored as Macon was, and we do not think that a purer or more interesting character can be found anywhere in our history. We should say also, perhaps, that the North Carolina Publishing Society nearly three years ago offered a prize of \$60 for the best sketch of any one of the fifteen men whose biographies appear in Peele's "Lives of Distinguished North Carolinians," and, several months later, the sketch published on page 4 was awarded the prize.

It doesn't occupy much space, but is sure, but it seems to us that Riley's poem, "The Bumble-bee," is one of the best things in this number. We regard it as nearly perfect. Where could you add a word or eliminate one without injury?

MISCELLANEOUS MATTER.

Our "Thinkers" department contains three noteworthy selections, one each from the Biblical Recorder, Statesville Landmark and Stanly Enterprise. We should like to have the opinion of any reader as to the Landmark's suggestion.

We note with regret the loneliness of Dr. Ford in our Correspondence division. With so many live public questions to discuss, that department should be full.

An article from the New York Outlook on the great railroad combination that now has a large part of the commerce of the Northwest at its mercy, appears on page 6. We do not endorse all the Outlook says, but the article tells plainly what has taken place. And the situation is such as to demand the serious attention of all good citizens.

In this State the political pot is by no means quiet, and the column of gossip as to candidates, on page 7, will interest many readers.

The Thinkers.

THE EXACT FACTS: SCHOOL ILLITERACY; POPULATION STATISTICS.

Last week we received Census Bulletin No. 89, in which are given the statistics gathered in the census of 1900, in regard to the voting population, illiteracy, nativity and military strength of North Carolina. One will find use for a knowledge of these statistics every now and then for ten years; and so we set them forth here with the injunction to the reader to cut them out and put them where they will be handy.

There are in North Carolina 753,826 children of school age, that is from five to twenty years of age, inclusive. Of these 753,376 are native born, only 450 being foreign born; 490,782 are white, and 263,044 are colored—this including 2,500 Indians, Chinese and Japanese.

The party in power, and all the people, under the Constitution and the will of the Most High are under solemn obligations to provide ample school facilities for every one of these 753,826 children. At present but little more than one dollar is provided for the education of each of them. But from sixty to one hundred dollars is expended by the State, having been taken in part from the fathers of these needy children, upon far more able men and women in far less necessary higher schools. One of these days our State will wake up to the truth of this fact. When they do they will need no urging, but much restraining. The average man reads it now as in a dream.

There are 377,611 males of school age, of whom 247,912 are white. There are 376,215 females in the same class, of whom 242,423 are white.

There are 417,578 men in North Carolina more than twenty-one years of age. Of these 294,920 can read and write, and 122,658 cannot. 68,184 negro men are illiterate and 60,131 can read and write. There are 54,474 white men who cannot read and write, and there are 234,789 white men who can.

More than half the negro men are illiterate—and are therefore disqualified for the ballot. And there are more than 50,000 white in North Carolina who cannot read and write. There are probably as many white women.

If sixty years of our present free school work and more than a century of the State University have left us with more than 100,000 white men and women full grown who cannot read and write, surely something is wrong. Surely if after so long, 100,000 are left illiterate, have we not good cause to say that unless something miraculous is done for the free schools right away, by the year 1908 many a white boy will be disfranchised—and will either be turned away from the ballot or allowed to vote by fraud—which God forbid!

There are 326,202 males of military age (between 18 and 45 years), of whom 98,691 are colored. We could raise a grand army to defend us against a foreign enemy; can we not raise one to defend our children and our State from ignorance and the oppression that it breeds?

The percentages are as follows: Percentage of children of school age, white native born 64.6, foreign born 0.1; colored 35. Of military age, males, 69 per cent are white, 31 colored. Of voting age, 69 per cent are white, 31 are colored. Of illiterate males of voting age 19 per cent are white, five per cent are whites of foreign birth, and 53 per cent are colored. Fifty-eight per cent of the Indians in North Carolina are illiterate. Only six-tenths of one per cent—six in one thousand—men of voting age in North Carolina are foreign. Eleven per cent of these are illiterate.

Only a few facts need to be reiterated in view of these figures: (1) that there are more than 100,000 illiterate white men and women in North Carolina, and as many colored; that there are 753,000 children of school age in North Carolina, that many of them are not in school; that only a little more than a dollar each is appropriated for their education; that there is no one in the halls of the General Assembly to lobby for them; that they have been run over every two years for a hundred years; that men who talk most about them have been known to be the first to trample their cause under foot. And this, that the people alone can rescue the children and the State from this condition. The children have the

first claim upon the State, and upon the people. And the people—their fathers and mothers—have the power to grant their claim.

We may gain a little light by making a comparison with the latest report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in North Carolina. The Census finds 490,782 white children of school age in North Carolina; the Superintendent finds only 263,217 in school! That leaves 227,565 white children to be accounted for. And yet we stand idle. Of the 263,044 colored children 127,399 are in school.—Biblical Recorder.

'TIS TRUE, 'TIS PITY.

There are gullible people everywhere, and our county is no exception. Let an agent drop in on us from unknown parts and he can dupe our people into buying patent remedies for all ills, patent churns, ranges, quilting machines, lightning rods, and all sorts of things, and they eagerly cough up their hard-earned money for what is vulgarly called "sky." A home man couldn't sell them a 5-cent article without their crying hard times on him, where a stranger can pull dollars from them without a grumble. "A fool and his money are easily parted" is a trite saying, but lots of mighty good men are caught sometime. Remember this lesson: First, beware of agents. Second, if you buy, know first what you are trading for. If it is a good thing, then all right, go ahead. Third, never sign any paper without knowing every word that is on it, and always sit down and coolly calculate where your profits are to come from before paying an agent a big price for the privilege of selling his trick in certain prescribed territory. We write this for the benefit of those who have never learned it by experience. It is a reflection on no one. All make errors, but they are too costly at times to allow them to be repeated by others when a word in time would prevent.—Stanly Enterprise.

SHOULD TAX LISTS BE PUBLISHED?

Says the Chatham Record: "There is an amazing difference sometimes between the valuation of property when listed for taxation and when reported to a mercantile agency as a basis for credit. The most astonishing difference in such valuations recently came to the knowledge of this writer. A certain corporation recently organized in this State reported its property to a mercantile agency as being worth \$600,000 and yet this same property is assessed for taxation at a valuation of \$38,000. Comment is unnecessary."

The Landmark recently expressed the opinion that all tax returns should be published. The more we think about it the more we are convinced that if the law required the publication of all tax returns once a year there would be a mighty rattling of dry bones among the Ananiases who keep back a part. The pious gentlemen who swear they are worth practically nothing at tax-listing time, but who swear they are worth large sums to obtain good ratings in commercial agencies, would find themselves exposed.—Statesville Landmark.

EDUCATION AND DISCONTENT.

If education is a developing of the possibilities which exist in the individual, considered in his threefold nature, physical, mental and moral, discontent, as a result, is inconceivable. But if one of the departments of his nature is educated to the exclusion, or even neglect, of the others, or if two of these are developed and the remaining one uneducated, the result may easily be conceived to be discontent. Unbalanced, there cannot be harmony, consequently there must result restlessness and discontent. Whether our system of education is producing this harmony of development is a most serious and interesting question.

If it is a fact that our schools are turning out, as a result of their training, a generation of restless and discontented young men and young women, it is high time to probe our system for the cause.—Mrs. D. S. Childs, Oakland, California, in Saturday Evening Post.

Somebody said recently that the world wants justice rather than charity; and this is the truth. Every child in the State is entitled to a chance in life, and justice will not be satisfied until he gets it. Money given to the stalwart, and strong may be charity, but help afforded the weak and destitute is justice.—Charity and Children.